

REMARKS

This is intended to be a complete response to the Official Action mailed August 18, 2004, in which claims 1-5 and 22-25 were allowed, claims 13 and 20 were objected to, and claims 6-12, 14-19 and 21 were rejected.

Claims 1-12, 14-19 and 21-25 are amended herein. Claims 13 and 20 are cancelled in view of the limitations therein having been incorporated into claims 6 and 15, respectively. New claims 26-29 have been added.

Amendments to the Claims

Several amendments to the claims have been made for the purposes of clarification. For example, in the preamble the phrase "metallic catalytic particle" has been replaced with the term "catalytic product" to distinguish the catalytic particle from the catalytic product which comprises both the catalytic particles and nanotubes deposited thereon.

Claims 6 and 15 have been amended to include the limitations of claims 13 and 20, respectively. Claims 6 and 15 have also been amended to include an oxidic support, molecular sieves, MCM-41, and alumina, as potential support materials, as enabled and supported on p. 12, ¶ 39 of the specification. MCM-41 and molecular sieve zeolites are molecular sieves, for example..

New claim 26 is directed to a catalytic product comprising Co and Mo disposed on a support material and a single-walled carbon nanotube disposed upon the catalytic particle.

Rejection Under §103(a)

Claims 6-12, 14-19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smalley et al., U.S. Patent 6,761,870.

Applicants traverse the rejection on the basis that the “nucleating agent” of Smalley et al. does not constitute a true solid support material, but in the interest of advancing the prosecution of the application have amended the claims without prejudice as indicated elsewhere herein to further limit the types of materials used as the support materials for the catalytic particle. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims in a continuation application filed later.

In view of the above Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under § 103(a).

Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit the claims are now in a condition for allowance and request issuance of a Notice of Allowance thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher W. Corbett", written over a horizontal line.

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